

U.S.S.N. 09/808,584

In the Claims:

Please amend the Claims as set forth in the following Listing of the Claims.

## LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) An apparatus for coating an article, said apparatus comprising:
  - an applicator;
  - a conveyor for sequentially transporting a plurality of articles to said applicator; and
  - a metering bar comprising a fixed arcuate end positioned against said applicator to meter a predetermined amount of coating composition to said applicator for transfer to an article transported to said applicator by said conveyor,
    - said metering bar forming a nip with said applicator and exerting a force against said applicator,
    - said predetermined amount of coating composition being determined, in part, by said force of said metering bar and a hydraulic force present at said nip.
2. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said applicator comprises a roller having a durometer of no greater than about 55 Shore A, said fixed arcuate end of said metering bar being positioned against said roller.
3. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said applicator is configured to enable the application of a substantially uniform layer of coating composition on articles having different dimensions.
4. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the end of said metering bar positioned against said applicator has a radius of at least about 2.5 mm.

U.S.S.N. 09/808,584

5.( Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the end of said metering bar positioned against said applicator has a radius of at least about 4.0 mm.

6.( Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said metering bar and said applicator are arranged to enable said metering bar to exert a force of at least about 35 g/cm width against said applicator.

7.( Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said metering bar and said applicator are arranged to enable said metering bar to exert a force of from about 45 g/cm width to about 900 g/cm width against said applicator.

8.( Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said conveyor and said applicator are configured to enable said applicator to apply a coating to the edge face of a roll of tape disposed between said conveyor and said applicator.

9. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said applicator comprises a roller and said fixed arcuate end of said metering bar is positioned against said roller.

10.(Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said applicator comprises an endless belt.

11. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a second applicator and a second metering bar positioned against said second applicator to meter a predetermined amount of coating composition to said second applicator, said second applicator being positioned to receive the article from said conveyor.

12. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said first applicator comprises a roller and said fixed arcuate end of said metering bar is positioned against said roller.

U.S.S.N. 09/808,584

13.(Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said second applicator comprises a roller.

14.( Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said first applicator comprises an endless belt.

15.(Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said second applicator comprises an endless belt.

16. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said apparatus is capable of substantially simultaneously

- a) transferring a coating composition from said first applicator to a first side of the article, and
- b) transferring a coating composition from said second applicator to a second side of the article opposite said first side of the article.

17.( Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the article is a roll of tape and said apparatus is capable of substantially simultaneously

- a) transferring a coating composition from said first applicator to a first edge face of a roll of tape, and
- b) transferring a coating composition from said second applicator to a second edge face of the roll of tape opposite said first edge face of the roll of tape.

18.(Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said first applicator and said second applicator are positioned to maintain the article between said first applicator and said second applicator.

19. (Previously presented) A system for manufacturing coated articles, said system comprising

- a first station comprising a coating apparatus comprising an applicator,

U.S.S.N. 09/808,584

a conveyor capable of sequentially transporting a plurality of articles to said applicator, and

a metering bar positioned against said applicator to meter a predetermined amount of coating composition to said applicator for transfer to an article transported to said applicator by said conveyor,

said metering bar forming a nip with said applicator and exerting a force against said applicator,

said predetermined amount of coating composition being determined, in part, by said force of said metering bar and a hydraulic force present at said nip; and

a second station for solidifying the coating composition disposed on the article.

20. (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, wherein said applicator comprises a roller and said fixed arcuate end of said metering bar is positioned against said roller.

21. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein said applicator comprises an endless belt.

22. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein said conveyor is capable of transporting a coated article to said second station.

23. (Original) The system of claim 19, further comprising a second conveyor capable of transporting a coated article from said first station to said second station.

24. (Original) The system of claim 19, further comprising a second conveyor comprising a first endless belt and a second endless belt, said second conveyor being positioned to transport a coated article to said second station.

U.S.S.N. 09/808,584

25. (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, further comprising a second applicator positioned to receive the article from said conveyor, and a second metering bar positioned against said second applicator to meter a predetermined amount of coating composition to said second applicator.

26. (Original) The system of claim 19, further comprising a second applicator positioned opposite said first applicator, and a second metering bar positioned against said second applicator to meter a predetermined amount of coating composition to said second applicator.

27. (Original) The system of claim 26, wherein said first applicator comprises a roller and said second applicator comprises a roller.

28. (Original) The system of claim 26, wherein said first applicator comprises an endless belt.

29. (Original) The system of claim 19, further comprising a second conveyor positioned to transport a coated article to said second station.

30. (Original) The system of claim 19, further comprising a second conveyor comprising a first endless belt and a second endless belt, said second conveyor being positioned to transport a coated article to said second station.

31. (Original) The system of claim 30, wherein said second conveyor is capable of transporting a coated article between said first endless belt and said second endless belt.

32. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein said second station comprises a source of radiation.

U.S.S.N. 09/808,584

33.(Original) The system of claim 32, wherein said source of radiation is capable of generating radiation selected from the group consisting of ultraviolet radiation and electron beam radiation.

34.(Original) The system of claim 19, wherein said solidifying comprises curing.

35.(Original) The system of claim 19, wherein said solidifying comprises drying.

Claims 36-56 (Cancelled)

57. (Previously presented) An apparatus for coating an article, said apparatus comprising:

- an applicator roller;
- a conveyor for sequentially transporting a plurality of articles to said roller; and
- a metering bar comprising a fixed arcuate end positioned against said roller to meter a predetermined amount of coating composition to said roller for transfer to an article transported to said applicator by said conveyor.

58.(Currently Amended) A system for manufacturing coated articles, said system comprising

- a first station comprising a coating apparatus comprising
  - an applicator,
  - a conveyor capable of sequentially transporting a plurality of articles to said applicator, and
  - a metering bar positioned against said applicator to meter a predetermined amount of coating composition to said applicator for transfer to the article transported to said applicator by said conveyor;

U.S.S.N. 09/808,584

a second applicator positioned to receive ~~an~~ the article from said conveyor, and a second metering bar positioned against said second applicator to meter a predetermined amount of coating composition to said second applicator; and  
a second station for solidifying the coating composition disposed on the article.

59. (Previously presented) The system of claim 58, wherein said second applicator is positioned opposite said first applicator.

60. (Previously presented) The system of claim 59, wherein said first applicator comprises a roller and said second applicator comprises a roller.

61. (Previously presented) The system of claim 59, wherein said first applicator comprises an endless belt.